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**United States Patent** [19]**Wehmeyer et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,543,857**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Aug. 6, 1996**[54] **GRAPHICAL MENU FOR A TELEVISION RECEIVER**5,128,766 7/1992 Choi ..... 348/564  
5,233,423 8/1993 Jernigan ..... 348/564[75] Inventors: **Keith R. Wehmeyer**, Fishers; **Robert J. Logan**; **Robert H. Miller**, both of Indianapolis; **Sheila R. Augaitis**; **Aaron H. Dinwiddie**, both of Fishers, all of Ind.[73] Assignee: **Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc.**, Indianapolis, Ind.[21] Appl. No.: **347,786**[22] Filed: **Nov. 30, 1994****Related U.S. Application Data**

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 328,654, Oct. 25, 1994, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **H04N 5/262**; H04N 5/445[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **348/589**; 348/600; 348/564; 348/565[58] **Field of Search** ..... 348/564, 565, 348/569, 584, 589, 600; 358/183, 22, 22 PIP; 345/115, 116, 146, 902; H04N 5/445, 5/45, 5/262, 5/278[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**4,644,401 2/1987 Gaskins ..... 348/589  
4,855,813 8/1989 Russell ..... 348/589  
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"Copies of Actual Screen Displays produced by Sony STR-D 1090 and STR-D2090 FM Stereo Receivers".

*Primary Examiner*—Victor R. Kostak*Assistant Examiner*—Sherrie Hsia*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Joseph S. Tripoli; Peter M. Emanuel; Thomas F. Lenihan[57] **ABSTRACT**

A television receiver, includes a graphics generator for generating for display a stylized image of the environment in which the user's physical television receiver is situated. The image includes graphical representations of functions which are available for selection and control by a user, and at least one of which functions affect the display of the video image. In one embodiment of the invention, a video inset-image from a PIP unit is completely surrounded by a graphics image. The PIP image is aligned with the screen of a graphically displayed television receiver to portray an image of a television displaying an received television program. Alternatively, an animated graphics presentation is displayed in the screen area of the graphically-displayed television receiver to simulate live video. In another embodiment, a stylized display of the user's room is altered in response to user input regarding the user's consumer electronics equipment, and submenu operational choices are enabled or disabled accordingly.

**4 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets**